

In The Claims

1. (Original) A protective package for an elongated medical device, comprising:  
  
a protective sheath including a lumen sized to receive a body of the elongated medical device, wherein a first end of the sheath is adapted to receive a distal end of the elongated medical device and a second end of the sheath is adapted to receive a proximal end of the elongated medical device; and  
  
a hydration opening disposed between the first and second ends of the sheath.
2. (Original) The protective package according to claim 1, wherein the sheath is formed as a hoop and wherein the medical device is a catheter.
3. (Original) The protective package according to claim 1, further comprising a protective assembly disposed at the first end of the sheath, the protective assembly being adapted to maintain a desired shape of the distal end.
4. (Original) The protective package according to claim 1, further comprising a luer attached to the sheath in fluid contact with the lumen, the luer defining the hydration opening.
5. (Original) The protective package according to claim 1, further comprising an adapter coupled to the hydration opening for receiving a syringe.
6. (Original) The protective package according to claim 3, wherein the protective assembly is adapted to prevent damage to a curvature of the distal end of the elongated medical device.
7. (Original) The protective package according to claim 1, wherein the sheath is adapted to

contain one of a catheter, a guide wire and a medical coil.

8. (Original) The protective package according to claim 6, wherein the sheath is adapted to contain a catheter with a shaped distal tip.
9. (Original) The protective package according to claim 1, wherein the hydration opening is adapted to divide a flow of the fluid thereinto to achieve a desired ratio of fluid flow at the first end to fluid flow at the second end.
10. (Original) The protective package according to claim 9, wherein the desired ratio is one to one.
11. (Original) The protective package according to claim 1, wherein the hydration opening is substantially equidistant from the first and second ends.
12. (Original) The protective package according to claim 1, wherein the hydration opening is oriented to direct an amount of flow toward the first end which is different than an amount of flow directed toward the second end.
13. (Original) The protective package according to claim 12, wherein the hydration opening is positioned so that, the difference in the amounts of flow toward the first and second ends achieves a desired ratio of fluid flow at the first end to fluid flow at the second end.
14. (Original) The protective package according to claim 13, wherein the desired ratio is one to one.
15. (Original) A catheter kit comprising:

a catheter having a shaped distal tip;

a tubular enclosure having a length and an inner diameter corresponding, respectively, to a length and outer diameter of the catheter;

a first end of the tubular enclosure being adapted to receive the shaped distal tip;

a second end of the tubular enclosure being adapted to receive a proximal end of the catheter; and

a hydration opening extending into an interior of the tubular enclosure between the first and second ends thereof, the hydration opening being positioned so that a desired proportion of flow thereinto is directed toward the first and second ends.

16. (Original) The catheter kit according to claim 15, further comprising a protective structure disposed at the first end, the protective structure maintaining a desired curvature of the shaped distal tip.
17. (Original) The catheter kit according to claim 15, wherein the tubular enclosure is coiled to form a hoop.
18. (Currently amended) The catheter kit according to claim 15, wherein [[the]] a hydrating fluid introduced into the tubular enclosure via the hydration opening is divided such that the proximal end and the distal end of the catheter are substantially equally hydrated.
19. (Original) The catheter kit according to claim 15, wherein the catheter is a micro-catheter with a shaped distal tip.
20. (Original) The catheter kit according to claim 15, wherein the hydration opening is substantially equidistant between the first and second ends.